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EDMONTON JANUARY 6, 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Wentz struggles with stress

pg 14

Vandals set off gas blast: Cops

B.C. Mounties in northeastern B.C. believe vandals are behind another explosion that rocked a natural gas pipeline Sunday.

A work crew found a metering shed damaged at an EnCana wellhead site near the community of Tomslake, about 550 km northwest of Edmonton.

Mounties say no injuries or any gas was leaked after the blast.

The explosion is the fourth deliberately set blast directed at gas infrastructure owned by EnCana, said the company.

Damage was minimal in all four explosions.

Investigators from the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, the Explosives Disposal Unit and Forensic Identification are handling the latest case, say Mounties.

METRO EDMONTON



Team Canada Five times
Canada's Thomas Hickey celebrates with goaltender Dustin Tokarski, left, after their team defeated Sweden in the gold medal game at the 2009 IIHF U20 World Junior Hockey Championships in Ottawa last night. **More coverage, page 9.**

More firebomb attacks hit city

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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ATTACK A Mill Woods home was the target of two firebombs Sunday, launched brazenly from passing assailants in the same day.

The first series of Molotov cocktails were tossed into the front window of the home on 35 Street and 38A Avenue around 6 a.m.

Though the curtains in a front room caught fire, the residents inside the home were able to extinguish the flames before the fire spread, and before emergency crews arrived.

Around 8 p.m., another round of firebombs were aimed at the same home.

Gang war?

- Firebombs are thought to be the weapon of choice in a street war being waged by two groups of teens.

Entertainment pg 12

Seizure killed Jett Travolta

Your Money pg 8

Work smarter, not harder

Health pg 10

Get better skin

Duped by teen?

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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A Sherwood Park man charged with sexually assaulting a minor says the teenage girl lured him off a dating website, claiming she was 20.

Michael Edward Terrance Hoffart, a 27-year-old Sherwood Park man, claims the girl manipulated him into believing she was older.

"It's not easy for me to talk about and I'm disgusted with myself for falling for her lies saying she was 20," Hoffart told Metro yesterday.

Patrolling RCMP officers

"It's not easy for me to talk about and I'm disgusted with myself for falling for her lies saying she was 20."

Michael Hoffart

caught the pair in a car early Saturday in a parking lot in the town of Gibbons.

Investigations revealed the girl was 15 years old. Criminal Code legislation passed in the spring states the new age of consent for sexual activity is 16.

Hoffart is charged with two counts of sexual assault, two counts of sexual interference, and two counts of invitation to sexual touching.

The girl, who lives in the Gibbons area, was co-operative with police, insisting she lied about her age.

"She portrays herself as being older online," said RCMP Sgt. Chris Narbonne.

"That's why there wasn't an Internet luring charge — he would have to have thought she was a minor for that to happen."

Though Hoffart claims he was duped, experts say the

onus for confirming the identity of people met online falls on the older adult, if any doubt exists.

"It's 100 per cent his responsibility," said Dorthe Flauer, Strathcona Sexual Assault Centre spokeswoman, adding while engaging in sexual activity with someone under the age of 20, "some alarm bells should have gone off," for the accused.

The girl and her family are currently working with social services.

Hoffart makes his first court appearance in Morinville Thursday. If convicted, he could face up to 10 years in prison.

The garage was damaged in the second attack, and no injuries were sustained.

Police spokesman Jeff Wuite could not confirm if the bombs were connected to the string of Molotov cocktail attacks that area residents saw over the summer.

Police met with concerned community members and students from Mill Woods high schools in July to discuss the bombings.

Officers are currently investigating to determine whether the attacks are connected.

No arrests were made and no charges were laid in connection with any of the incidents.

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PCL Construction named the second best workplace in country

Edmonton-based company PCL Construction Management Inc. has been named the second best place to work in Canada, according to Report on Business. The business magazine listed the construction company second among 50 of the best businesses across the country. **METRO EDMONTON**

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Local



Shovel your walk or pay up

The city says bylaw officers are now hitting the streets to hand out tickets to property owners who have neglected to shovel their sidewalks and pathways. Property owners are responsible for clearing all snow from city sidewalks that are adjacent to their properties within 48 hours of a snowfall, said the city. About 650 tickets were issued last year.

METRO EDMONTON

Bankruptcy rates soaring as of late

JEFF CUMMINGS
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ECONOMY An Edmonton bankruptcy trustee says his office has already seen an increase in the number of people filing for bankruptcy and he expects things will only get busier in the new year.

Barton Goth, a bankruptcy trustee at Goth & Company Inc., says the increase has been "quite dramatic" between September to October 2008 when economies around the world began to nosedive.

"It doesn't seem to have slowed down," said Goth. "Our volume went up and we had a large volume to start with."

The number of bankruptcies in Canada has started to rise in 2008, according to figures from the Office of Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada.

The figures say 46 per cent more bankruptcies were filed than in September the same month in 2007. October also saw a 51 per cent increase from the previous month.

"I expect it will be busy this year," said Goth.

"We've got an average household right now that spends 131 per cent of its monthly take home income and that's just something that has been going on for far too long."

Gypsy cabs filling the void

Taxi service aimed at helping friends get home safely

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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A posse of homegrown gypsies are getting back to their nomadic roots by getting weary travellers off the streets and into 21st century caravan convoys.

The Str'8 Up Gypsies are a group of local guys, bent on getting friends from point A to point B safely, and in a comfortable environment, for a pre-set price.

"We're doing this for fun," said gypsy cab founder Travis Boa, adding the idea started through a want to provide transport in cold winter months for friends without wheels.

The gypsies started rolling on the roads of the 780 around the holiday season, and parties abound have wrought many prosperous nights, giving partiers a reliable alternative to the lure of drinking and driving.

The fleet hit the streets



Leon Hunter, left, Nicko Urkow, centre, and Kyle Nickerson of the Str'8 Up Gypsies pose with two of the vehicles operated by their budget taxi service.

shortly after the Edmonton Vehicle For Hire Commission instated a \$3 surcharge for all taxi customers after 11 p.m., an added expense that's pushed budget travellers to alternative means of getting around.

Cabbies met Sunday to

discuss frustrations with the commission to bring forward to council, including non-commissioned taxis, and the city's proposal to issue more taxi licences.

So far, the gypsies are keeping advertising old school and low-key —

through word of mouth, and word is spreading fast.

"We try to keep it really community-centred," said driver Leon Hunter. "Most clients are our friends, and we're really relaxed, as far as the whole business exchange aspect goes — it's straight up."

Car-truck crash claims two lives

ACCIDENT A driver and passenger of a car died Friday afternoon, after their vehicle collided with a water tanker truck near Redwater.

The car was unable to stop on an icy road entering southbound onto Highway 643.

It was hit by the westbound truck. Both occupants were killed instantly. **METRO EDMONTON**

Property tax notices mailed

BILLS Homeowners can expect to start receiving their property tax notices in the mail within the next few days.

Nearly 300,000 assessments were mailed out to help homeowners understand this year's calculations. Final tax bills will be mailed out in May, after adjustments between property classes and the addition of the provincial education tax.

METRO EDMONTON

Sheriffs help make big weapons bust

JEFF CUMMINGS
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ARRESTS Alberta sheriffs are being credited by city police for helping seize a number of guns and a small amount of ammunition found inside a truck

they pulled over Saturday.

Sheriffs pulled over the suspicious vehicle on 23 Avenue and Rabbit Hill Road around 2:20 p.m.

While conducting the traffic stop, the sheriffs discovered a weapon and ammunition inside the

vehicle, prompting them to call police, said city cops.

When police from the service's southwest division arrived, cops found three handguns in a hidden compartment in the truck, two rifles, and ammunition for all of the

weapons.

Police say two of those handguns were loaded.

Cody James Kermode, 18, and Andy Christopher Estrada, 18, are both charged with more than 40 offences, including numerous firearms related offences.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Read Stripes asks if MPs are earning those fat paycheques at metronews.ca

Blog Mourners at hockey player's funeral sing him one last Christmas carol at metronews.ca/canada

Analysis Nano-technology is changing the way we live at metronews.ca/canada



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Canada



Expensive extension

Toronto city council yesterday approved a seven-kilometre, \$2.5-billion extension to the city's Yonge subway line. The proposal has been sent to the Ontario government and if the province will help fund the plan, the subway will be extended in the suburb of Richmond Hill by 2017.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Flaherty meets with top bankers

Federal finance minister urges Canadian banks to make credit available

Canada's finance minister and central bank chief met with the country's top bank executives yesterday to prod them to loosen up lending, officials said.

A spokesman for Finance Minister Jim Flaherty confirmed the meeting took place early yesterday. Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney also attended, according to his spokesman.

Neither would comment on the meeting.

Flaherty will speak to reporters this morning, prior to pre-budget consultations in Montreal, and is expected to comment then

"Banks are trying to fill the gap, but we're not able to take up all the slack."

Nancy Hughes Anthony, Canadian Bankers Association

on the talks with the banks.

The head of the Canadian Bankers Association, who also attended the meeting, said Flaherty expressed concern about the availability of credit for businesses and individuals.

"We assured the minister that the banks are committed to doing what they can to help Canada weath-

er any recession and that they will continue to lend to credit-worthy individuals and businesses," Nancy Hughes Anthony, president and chief executive of the CBA, said in a statement.

Hughes Anthony said banks represent only half the credit market for small and mid-sized businesses and that non-bank funding

sources to these businesses are the ones that have been curbing their lending.

"Banks are trying to fill the gap, but we're not able to take up all the slack from other providers," she said.

She defended the Canadian banks' prudent lending practices and said it was best to stick to those practices, protecting depositors' money.

The National Post newspaper reported yesterday that Flaherty would discuss with the banks a range of proposals under

consideration to ease credit conditions.

The proposals, which could potentially be worked into the Jan. 27 budget, include the government acting as guarantor for different types of loans, in addition to its traditional role as guarantor of mortgages.

Ottawa could also provide tax incentives for investors to buy preferred shares in banks, as an alternative way to raise financing with reduced risk, the newspaper said, citing people briefed on the agenda.

REUTERS

Ontario man runs for top Puntland office

SOMALIA A Mississauga man running for president of Puntland, an Islamic state within Somalia at the Horn of Africa, promises to end piracy against international shipping by creating jobs.

Adam Esse said pirates would rather fish or do other work, rather than raid ships and hold them for ransom.

Stopping the piracy that is disrupting shipping and terrorizing sailors in the Gulf of Aden requires basic development that would lead to other jobs, he said by phone yesterday from the capital, Garowe.

"I want to become president to change the bad situation that we have over here in terms of security, stability, the economy, education and equality between the genders."



Adam Esse

Quebec woman faces murder charges in death of kids, husband

QUEBEC Her voice was not weak, as might be expected, as it came through the speakerphone in the courtroom. On the line from her hospital bed, she coughed twice and simply said "yes," she could hear the judge well and, "yes," she understood the charges against her.

Cathie Gauthier-Lachance, 36, the only survivor of what police have called a suicide pact undertaken with her husband to kill their children and then themselves, was arraigned yesterday on first-degree murder charges of her three young children, and in a last-minute addition, the assisted suicide of her husband, 46-year-old Marc Laliberté.

The bodies of Laliberté and the children, 12-year-old Joelle, seven-year-old Marc-Ange, Louis-Philippe, 4, are undergoing autopsies in Montreal.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Evidence

• Police had collected enough evidence, they said, to recommend charges even before they finally interviewed Gauthier-Lachance yesterday. Her lawyer, Dominic Bouchard, described her state-of-mind as "devastated."

Ottawa Sweet treat on the canal



Dany Lafontaine and Julie Gosselin, both from Gatineau, Ont., share a Beavertail while taking a break from skating on the Rideau Canal Skateway last night. Thousands of people have taken to the ice since a two-kilometre stretch between Pretoria Bridge and Bank Street opened on New Year's Day. National Capital Commission spokesperson Julie Rocheleau said crews are working to prepare the rest of the canal, but there are still sections where the ice is too thin and it is impossible to predict when it would be ready.

Wanted Calgary woman caught in Halifax

JENNIFER TAPLIN
Metro Canada

HALIFAX A woman wanted in relation to a homicide in Alberta was discovered in Halifax this weekend.

At around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, a car rolled over. The two people in the car — an 18-year-old woman and a 50-year-old man — were treated by paramedics when they found something in the woman's mouth.

"She was being treated by

EHS when they found a piece of tinfoil in her mouth. They believed it was drugs, so they turned it over," said Cpl. Joe Taplin with the Halifax RCMP.

They don't know yet what the suspected drug is — it's being analyzed in the lab. The male driver is facing charges of impaired driving.

But as the RCMP checked out the woman, they found that there was a Canada-wide warrant for her arrest.

Calgary RCMP Sgt. Patrick Webb said she was charged for allegedly being a party to

the Sept. 1 homicide of Sharmarke Mohamed Warsame, 39, outside Brooks, Alta.

"It was this incident where this man was (allegedly) beaten by five males and they've all been arrested and charged and are in the court system," Webb said.

"She's charged as a party to the offence, which means she didn't participate in the actual homicide, but she (allegedly) participated in something either before or after it."

News in brief

DONATIONS Hammered by the economic downturn, Canadian charities are urging the federal government to create incentives in the upcoming budget to encourage rich donors to give more during tough times. A group of charities yesterday urged Ottawa to exempt gifts of private company shares and real estate from the capital gains tax.

MURDER Escalating gang violence in Calgary has claimed its first-ever innocent victim, a hard-working Samoan man forging an honest life for himself. Keni Su'a, 43, was gunned

down on New Year's Day while dining alone over soup at Bolsa Restaurant, an innocent bystander in the wrong place at the wrong time, according to police.

DEAL STRUCK The New Brunswick government and the province's 5,500 nurses have reached a tentative deal, avoiding a possible provincewide strike, CBC News Online reports. Marilyn Quinn, president of the New Brunswick Nurses Union, said the tentative agreement was struck at 1 a.m. yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

China cracks down on search engines, other sites for vulgarity

China has launched a crackdown on websites as the country enters a politically sensitive year, with officials accusing search engines, including Google and Chinese engine Baidu, of spreading pornography and vulgarity. A report on an official news website said repeated violators and those that had a "malign influence" might be exposed, punished or shut down. **REUTERS**

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World



Panetta picked as CIA head

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama has chosen Leon Panetta, who was White House chief of staff for Bill Clinton, to lead the CIA, Democratic officials said yesterday. Outside of his stint in the White House, where he served between 1994 and 1997, Panetta has relatively little experience in national security matters. **REUTERS**

Israel ignores calls for truce

Israeli troops backed by air strikes fought to seize ground from Hamas militants deep inside the Gaza Strip yesterday despite international calls for a ceasefire in a conflict that has killed more than 540 Palestinians in 10 days.

More than 33 civilians, including children, were killed yesterday, the third day of an Israeli ground offensive. Three Israeli soldiers were killed and about

20 were wounded by an Israeli tank shell fired in error, the military said. A total of four soldiers have been killed since Israel launched the assault.

Israel said it killed dozens of Islamist guerrillas as the battle crept into the suburbs of the city of Gaza itself.

Israel's defence minister said the assault, which he hopes can stem rocket fire on its own towns, could

Bush's demands

- U.S. President George W. Bush insisted yesterday that any Gaza ceasefire must include provisions to prevent Hamas from using the coastal strip to fire rockets into Israel.

get harder for troops.

Hamas threatened to fire more missiles into Israel.

Threats of resuming suicide bombings have yet to materialize.

Israel, whose leaders are fighting a parliamentary election on Feb. 10, made clear its priority was to secure the safety of its citizens. **REUTERS**



India hands Pakistan Mumbai evidence

ATTACKS India handed over evidence yesterday to Pakistan that it said linked Pakistani militants to the Mumbai attacks and demanded a prompt investigation, piling diplomatic pressure on its nuclear-armed rival.

India has blamed Pakistani militants for the November attacks, which killed 179 people and reignited tension between the neighbours who have fought three wars since 1947, but this is the first time it has given evidence to Islamabad.

Foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon said it "beggars the imagination" that no Pakistani officials

knew about preparations for the assault on India's financial hub.

The evidence included a confession from the man India says is the lone surviving gunman, details of communication links with "elements in Pakistan," and data retrieved from GPS and satellite phones, India's foreign ministry said.

Pakistan said it would look into the evidence.

India says it has not been satisfied by Pakistan's response thus far. New Delhi wants Islamabad to dismantle what it says are terrorist training camps on Pakistani territory and extradite 40 suspects. **REUTERS**

Iguanas unseen by Darwin offer evolution clue

SCIENCE Pink iguanas unknown to Charles Darwin during his visits to the Galapagos islands may provide evidence of species divergence far earlier than the English naturalist's famous finches, researchers said yesterday.

The findings describe the black-striped reptiles — first seen in 1986 and only a few times since — as a new species, said Gabriele Gentile of the University Tor Vergata in Rome, who led the study.

During Darwin's visit to the Galapagos in 1835 his observations of finch varieties with different-shaped beaks, which they evolved to adapt to changes in food, were key in his formulation of his theory of evolution by natural selection. Darwin did not visit areas inhabited by the pink land iguana and so missed the species, whose existence suggests diversification in the Galapagos happened some five million years ago. **REUTERS**

India Mourning procession



Shi'ite Muslims flagellate themselves during a Moharram procession yesterday in Ahmedabad. Muslims all over the world mourn the slaying of Imam Hussein, a grandson of Prophet Mohammed, during the first 10 days of the Islamic month of Moharram. Imam Hussein was killed by his political rivals along with 72 companions in Iraq some 1,300 years ago.

News in brief

INTERNET More than half of teenagers mention risky behaviours on their MySpace accounts, U.S. researchers said yesterday. An analysis of 500 randomly selected 18-year-

olds' accounts on the site showed 54 per cent of profiles they checked contained information about high-risk behaviours: 41 per cent mentioned substance abuse, 24 per cent

sexual behaviour and 14 per cent violence.

PREGNANCY A test performed in early pregnancy to check for genetic defects may be linked to increased risk the child will

be born with a birthmark. Chorionic villus sampling, or CVS, involves using a needle to collect samples of the structure that forms the placenta. researchers found birthmarks

in 12 of 95 CVS-exposed infants compared with 3 of 87 infants who had been exposed to amniocentesis, which usually takes place later on in pregnancy. **REUTERS**






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Comment & Views

Comment

Back to the starting point

National Report



Lawrence Martin

Fair to say that a decade or two ago, we didn't care much about Afghanistan. Just another Third World basket case. Let the ethnic tribes there bloody one another up. Let superpowers try to harness it.

Then a couple things happened. The Taliban got singled out as being exporters of terrorism and as running a government even more medieval than other tribes. We had a general, the popular Rick Hillier, who was gung-ho on getting Canada back on war footing. We figured we owed the Americans some-

The Americans are getting set to send in new forces, which will more than compensate for Canadian withdrawals.

thing because we hadn't joined them in Iraq and hadn't agreed to their missile-defence program. So we sent troops to the Afghan hot zone of Kandahar.

The usual right-left debate ensued with one side rah rah on war and the other dubious. No foreign invader, many argued, had ever brought Afghanistan to heel, the list including Alexander the Great, the Mongols, the British Raj, the Soviet Union.

But as is normal in war, politicians and generals held to the line that progress was being made. We can't cut and run, they

said. And if you don't cheer for the war effort, you're not supporting our troops. In other words, the usual patriot games, some legitimate, some just plain old bullshine.

But today, there is a consensus that says that little or no progress has been made, that Afghanistan remains as it almost always has been — untamable. Canadians, smarter than their generals and politicians, were never really enthusiastic about this war. Now they're saying in polls that they

want their troops out before the deadline of 2011.

The Americans are getting set to send in new forces, which will more than compensate for Canadian withdrawals, if and when they occur. With this effort the new president, Barack Obama, will be able to prevent the Taliban from regaining power. But it will require his getting bogged down in a long war.

There will be more pressure from his White House for Canadians to stay on. But Canadians will have seen enough. They will turn back the clock. It will be just about as it was before. They won't care much about Afghanistan. They'll leave it to the Afghans and the superpowers — and save their soldiers from dying from roadside bombs.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

GETTY IMAGES

Views

Neutral the toughest stance on Mideast



Mona Eltahawy

Global View

I was born in Egypt during one war with Israel, have vivid memories of another war with Israel, and I was the first Egyptian to live and work in Israel for a Western news agency when I moved there from Cairo at the end of 1997 as a Reuters correspondent.

And here's the best piece of advice on the Middle East you will get today.

Sit on the fence.

Strange coming from an opinion writer who makes a living out of taking positions? Yes. But it's too easy to take sides in the Middle East conflict. Few other parts of the world inspire such passion or leave such little room for doubt. For many, choosing sides is

just an afterthought to their birthright: If you're an Arab, go join the Free Palestine demonstrations; and if you're Jewish, go join the Save Israel marches.

Don't forget, you can always throw God into the mix. Lay claim to your holy sites and you'll have religiously sanctioned wrath to fuel your rage.

But what's the point of choosing sides when both sides are losing? The real challenge when it comes to the Middle East is to sit on the fence and to understand that as with most chapters of this interminable conflict, civilians pay the most expensive price.

From that perch up there on the fence, keep your eyes firmly on Israeli and Palestinian civilians and ask about the responsibility of leaders to their

The hardest thing is to scream "Enough!" at a time when both sides seem bent on mutual destruction.

people.

The civilians of Gaza are victims of both Hamas and Israel.

The former have been more concerned with firing ineffectual rockets at southern Israel where they targeted the very group of people they are now accusing Israel of hurting the most in Gaza — civilians.

Israel has launched a punishing bombardment and invasion of Gaza that will be used as the latest proof that it is the neighbourhood bully. Its actions are bound to turn Hamas

into the very heroes they don't deserve to be and possibly unleash a new wave of unconscionable suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

And all for what?

For those of us from the region, the easiest thing might be to follow our birthright to bias. But the hardest thing is to scream "Enough!" at a time when both sides seem bent on mutual destruction and when to criticize your side ensures accusations of being a sellout.

But I insist on staying on that fence and being a sellout for peace.

Stay on that fence with me and scream and yell for a ceasefire.

Enough violence.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS...
...PEOPLE SEEM SLIGHTLY LESS
FOCUSED ON THE ECONOMY.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

So much for the economic meltdown

Re: Your year's pay a day's work for top CEOs (Jan. 2)

I was astounded to learn from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) that the salaries of Canada's top CEOs have reached unprecedented new heights.

So much for the economic meltdown.

While these characters were dragging in bigger and bigger salaries, upwards of 70,000 Canadians lost their jobs.

The rest of us are preparing to ride out the rough year ahead, while the country's top executives appear to be immune from any fallout.

According to the CCPA report, the 100 highest paid CEOs of Canadian publicly traded corporations received an average of \$10,408,054 in total compensation in 2007.

Many of the top 100 include Canada's big bank CEOs, who recently received billions in a federal government bailout to purchase mortgage loans, and energy CEOs who, until recently, were surfing the big wave of high oil prices.

Average CEO pay for the top 100 was up 22 per cent from its \$8.5 million average in 2006.

In contrast, the earnings of average Canadians rose by only 3.2 per cent — the best increase in the past five years, but a tiny fraction of the CEOs' pay hike and barely keeping up with inflation.

Many of these corporations have enjoyed several years of huge profits by gouging us at the pumps and at the bank machines.

DANNY CAVANAGH, PRESIDENT
CUPE NOVA SCOTIA

Kudos to Metro's editorial cartoonist

I have particularly enjoyed recently the small editorial cartoons that have appeared in Metro. Editorial cartoonists have a unique talent of highlighting the crux of the issue and giving readers a better appreciation and understanding of the issue. Michael de Adder's cartoons are "clean" and not cluttered. His cartoons are an invaluable addition to Metro and provide interesting and stimulating inclusion in our household.

FRANKLIN CHOW, OTTAWA

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

New York Times to sell front-page display ads

The New York Times said it would sell display advertising on its front page, its latest step to seek new ways to make money as it deals with a prolonged ad revenue downturn. The Times has run discreetly placed classified advertising on the front before. **REUTERS**

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Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bleak month for auto sales

Worst December in 12 years

Canada's auto market crashed during the holiday season, one more piece of evidence of a deepening recession.

Despite incentives, showroom sales plunged 21.2 per cent or more than 25,000 vehicles to 94,423 in December from the same month in 2007, manufacturers reported yesterday.

The results marked the worst decline in auto sales for any month since 2003. It was also the lowest level for a December in 12 years.

The bleak December pulled down overall 2008 sales in Canada by 1.1 per cent, or more than 17,000 to 1.653 million cars and trucks. That followed three years of annual increases.

Analysts are forecasting more big dents in the first

half of this year before the market show some signs of a recovery.

Offshore-based manufacturers exceeded the Big Three automakers in market share in Canada for the first time. They raised their share to 51.9 per cent from 48.3 per cent, while GM, Ford and Chrysler slipped to 48.1 per cent from 51.7 per cent.

Toyota, including the Lexus luxury brand, also jumped into second place in sales in Canada from fourth spot, ahead of Chrysler and Ford. Its sales rose 11.3 per cent to a record 224,158 in 2008 from 2007. GM of Canada, the longtime leader of sales in the country, was again ranked No. 1.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hyundai

Hyundai Motor Co. has rolled out a new incentive program for U.S. consumers that allows them to return financed or leased vehicles within the first year of purchase if they lose income.

Honda Civic overtakes Ford pickup as most popular

AUTOMOTIVE The Honda Civic compact has surpassed the Ford F-Series pickup truck to become Canada's most popular vehicle.

Sales of the Civic climbed two per cent to 72,463, while the F-Series pickup, which led the market for five consecutive years, slid eight per cent to 67,749 in 2008, the companies revealed yesterday.

It marks the first time in

15 years that a car — previously the Chevrolet Cavalier — has topped a truck as the country's best selling vehicle.

Analysts say the Civic benefited from soaring fuel prices for most of the year while the popularity of pickups including the F-Series dropped because of much higher gasoline costs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

WOOLWORTHS Shoppers hunted for bargains before the doors close at Woolworths, one of Britain's best known retailers and one of the first big-name businesses to fail in the global downturn. About 600 of the chain's 815 stores have already closed and the rest are set to close this week, with the loss of 27,000 jobs.

MADOFF More than 8,000 forms have been mailed to customers of accused swindler Bernard Madoff so they can make claims by March or July.

STEVE JOBS Apple Inc. chief executive Steve Jobs sought to soothe investor concerns about his health yesterday, saying his weight loss was caused by a hormone imbalance that is relatively simple to treat.

WATERFORD Three U.S.-based parties are in talks to save china-maker Waterford Wedgwood after the Irish company called in receivers, the Financial Times said today. The heavily indebted maker of Waterford crystal asked yesterday for its shares to be suspended. **REUTERS**

Japan Hoping for bull market in year of the ox



Women dressed in ceremonial kimonos and a person in a cow outfit representing the year of the ox pose at the Tokyo Stock Exchange's new year opening ceremony in Tokyo yesterday. Japan's Nikkei average rose 1.5 per cent yesterday, the first trading day of 2009, after Wall Street rallied Friday to its highest levels since November on hopes 2009 will be a better year. The Japanese year of the ox began on Jan. 1.

U.S. fiscal deal could be delayed

STIMULUS U.S. president-elect Barack Obama went to the U.S. capitol yesterday to press for swift passage of a huge spending and tax-cut package amid signs his centerpiece economic stimulus plan, expected to cost about \$775 billion US over two years, may face delays.

Obama's fellow Democrats had hoped to have such a package ready for the new president to sign as soon as he takes office in two weeks. But they now say it will take at least a month or so longer to put together an initiative that can draw bipartisan support to clear a possible Senate Republican roadblock. Republicans are raising concerns the Obama stimulus plan may presage a new era of uncontrolled government spending. **REUTERS**

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA



Enough talking, get walking

Q My new year's resolution is to get rich! Get into shape! Help the less privileged! Buy low, sell high! Quit smoking! Travel more! Win the lottery!

A The new year is a great time for us to put 2008 behind us and reboot for another year. Although my accounting and tax background does not give me the qualifications to help you lose weight or quit smoking, its approach may not be much different. Here is some of my advice:

- Be realistic with resolutions. "I want to look like I did as a teenager!" Don't we all!
- Don't just "say," "do." The word resolution implies action. Resolutions cannot be accomplished without following through. Stop talking about joining a health club, just do it.

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

• As important as the resolution is having a plan for its execution. Without a plan, there will be no success. "This year, I would like to save for a house." Where will the savings come from? Identify how you can increase income and cut expenses.

• Set long-term goals but achievable objectives that can be measured periodically. For example: Lose four pounds a month. Pre-authorize monthly RRSP contributions. Set up automatic payments for investment.

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at
choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

Work smarter, not harder

SmartCookies



Being a Smart Cookie isn't just about finding ways to spend less and save more, it's about making more money too. And just to be clear, we do not mean taking a job you hate because the paycheck's better. As we enter into 2009, we encourage you to find ways to attract more money into your life. And to get you started, here are a few Smart Cookie tips.

Turn Your Passion into a Paycheque:

With a little effort and creativity, it's possible to turn almost any pastime into a paycheck. For example, one of our Smart Cookies was interested in learning about and tasting new wines. She had a



One Smart Cookie got a job at her favourite furniture store (which offered employees a 40 per cent discount) and used the money she made working at the store to buy her discounted furnishings for her new condo.

friend who started a business that offered wine tastings at company events and she offered to help out. This was a great opportunity for her to make extra cash, sample some wine and meet new people.

Why Not Make Some Money AND Reap the Benefits?

Consider taking on a part-time job at your favourite store — many retail stores hire extra employees to help out during

their busy season. One of us was furnishing a new condo, got a job at her favourite furniture store (which offered employees 40 per cent discount) and used the money she made working at the store to buy her discounted furnishings.

Clean Out Your Clutter

Anything you haven't used in over a year, you no longer need! But rather than throwing these items away, why not find them a new home? One of the

Smart Cookies makes about \$300 at the end of each season and puts that toward new clothes. Another sold her wedding dress for \$800 on craigslist.org. You can do the same with sporting equipment, toys, CDs, books, almost anything.

What about Passive Income?

There are ways to increase your monthly income, without lifting a finger. For example, if you pay monthly for a space in a garage, but you know your car will be gone during work hours or you'll never use it, you can rent out your space during the weekdays to someone who works near your parking spot. Advertise the space on craigslist.org or in your local paper. One of our Cookies rents out her space and earns an additional \$50 per month.

Consider contract work

If it's not a conflict with your full-time job, look for freelance or contract opportunities. By utilizing her contacts, one of us was able to get additional contract work providing PR services outside of her full-time job, earning an extra \$2,000 per month!

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

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WILL RETURN

Harrison picks up defensive hardware

Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Defensive Player of the Year award yesterday, after registering a team-record 16 sacks, and leading the NFL with seven forced fumbles in the regular season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Sports

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA



Win for Wozniak

Fourth-seeded Aleksandra Wozniak, left, of Blainville, Que., beat Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-5 in the first round at the ASB Classic women's tennis tournament in New Zealand yesterday. All four seeded players progressed to the second round of the singles.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

High five for Canada

WJC CHAMPIONSHIP

Canada 5 Sweden 1



Team Canada won its fifth gold medal in a row at the world junior hockey championships last night, taking a first-period lead on P.K. Subban's second effort just 38 seconds into the game and riding the goaltending of a suddenly hot Dustin Tokarski.

Angelo Esposito scored on a backhand in the second period, Cody Hodgson let rip a wrister on the power play in the third, and Jordan Eberle and Hodgson scored into an empty net in a 5-1 win over Sweden, which takes home silver for the second year in a row.

Shaky in every outing before last night, Tokarski faced 40 shots, stood tall and was named player of the game.

John Tavares was named the tournament's most valuable player and



Team Canada players Patrice Cormier, back, defenceman Thomas Hickey, defenceman Ryan Ellis and John Tavares, right, line up behind P.K. Subban after he scored against Sweden last night.

a first-team all-star. He was joined on the all-star team by Hodgson and Subban.

The crowd of 20,380 at Scotiabank Place — who

jeered Swedish defenceman Victor Hedman and goalie Jacob Markstrom all night — was a new single-game attendance record for the world jun-

iors. With Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his security entourage in attendance, and a huge Canadian flag making its way around the lower bowl, the stage was set for the international showcase of junior hockey's two best teams.

Emotions ran high in the second, as Canada extended its lead to 2-0 on the goal by Esposito.

Hedman took a few punches at Esposito, who wisely didn't swing back, after the Canadian had a run-in with Markstrom as the goalie skated after a loose puck.

The crowd jeered Markstrom, believing he was putting on a show by flopping on the ice after his collision with Esposito.

It was Markstrom's third questionable flop of the game.

Hedman didn't get a penalty and was booed the rest of the evening.

Esposito got his revenge on the same shift, scoring on a backhand after scooping the puck off David Rundblad.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Mike Comrie and Dwayne Roloson battle for the puck last night.

Make it two in a row

NHL RESULT

Islanders 2 Oilers 3



THE SKINNY: Losers of 12 straight games on the road and dead-last in NHL standings, the Islanders jumped out to a two-goal lead but gave up the next three goals on the way to making it 13 straight road losses.

THE BIG PLAY: Andrew Cogliano scored the winner at 9:58 of the third period when he jammed the rebound of a Marc Pouliot slapshot into the net for his 12th goal of the season.

TWICE LUCKY: The Oilers pulled even on two lucky goals

by the fourth line. Kyle Brodsky made it 2-1 when his pass into the crease banked into the net off Brendan Witt's skate. Jason Strudwick tied it when Zack Stortini's pass bounced off his skate past Joey MacDonald.

THE LONG WAIT: Strudwick had gone 70 games without scoring a goal, with his last coming Nov. 17, 2007 against Pittsburgh. Strudwick has 12 goals in 521 career games.

WEIGHT OUT: Former Oiler captain Doug Weight took a tumble during the morning skate, later emerged with his right ankle in a brace and was scratched.

THE NEXT GAME: The Oilers host the Vancouver Canucks at Rexall Place tomorrow.

ROBIN BROWNLEE/
FOR METRO EDMONTON

Heisman winner a big Canucks fan

The top player in U.S. college football is a hockey fanatic. His favourite team: the Vancouver Canucks.

In fact, while in high school in Oklahoma City, quarterback Sam Bradford had a ritual in which he'd watch The Mighty Ducks movie and check out the latest Canucks' results before turning in for the night. "Hockey was and maybe still is my favourite sport to watch," said the Heisman Trophy winner, who will lead the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners against the No. 2 Florida Gators in the BCS national championship game Thursday

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca



night. "I love the Canucks. (Vancouver goaltender) Roberto Luongo is outstanding."

• Spring training, believe it or not, begins next month but one of baseball's premier sluggers remains a ManRam without a home. Not that Manny Ramirez isn't attracting interest.

"The problem," an MLB general manager told me yesterday, "isn't Manny. It's Manny's agent. He's ridiculous."

Scott Boras has long had a reputation for stubbornness. In Ramirez's case, the agent hasn't budged on demands for about \$20 million U.S. a year, despite the lamentable economy and his client's age (almost 37).

"Manny's one of the great hitters of our lifetimes, a clutch batter who'd fit into the heart of every order in baseball," the aforementioned GM said. "And he might have an attitude issue, too, but the pros outweigh the cons for him. It's just his agent's stance that's hurting him now. If he had another representative, I'm sure he'd have a team by now."

Ramirez was a major boon on the field and at the box office for the Dodgers after they acquired him in a trade with the Boston Red Sox last season, and Los Angeles continues to pursue him, as do the San Francisco Giants, Tampa Bay Rays and New York Yankees. Even the Blue Jays might make a pitch for him if they could suc-

ceed in their attempts to unload Scott Rolen and/or Lyle Overbay and their guaranteed contracts.

"Manny ultimately will get a contract and will get a lot of money," the GM said, "but, unless he switches agents, he may not sign any time soon. That just won't happen. There always has been an owner who's lost his mind when it comes to offers for players of Manny's calibre, but I strongly doubt it'll happen this time. The general consensus is that Boras is just too unreasonable."

• An athlete who has lowered his financial demands: Shaquille O'Neal.

In November, the NBA star listed his Miami Beach mansion for \$35 million. His new asking price: \$25 mil.

Sam Bradford and Oklahoma play Florida for the BCS Championship on Thursday.



More online

• Former NHL star Eric Lindros returned a call to Metro's Marty York yesterday but refused to clear up any of the mystery surrounding him. Visit metronews.ca/sports for more details.

Sports in brief

MLB The Chicago Cubs have reportedly signed outfielder Milton Bradley to a three-year contract. The Chicago Tribune is reporting that the deal is believed to be worth US\$30 million and should be finalized this week.

MLB The Tampa Bay Rays have signed outfielder Pat Burrell to a two-year deal. Financial terms

were not released, but numerous reports have stated that the contract will be worth \$16 million. Burrell hit .250 with 33 home runs and drove in 86 runs for the World Champion Phillies last season. He had spent his entire nine-year career in Philadelphia, averaging 31 homers and 99 RBI over the past four seasons. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SCOREBOARD

WJC	N.Y. Rangers 4 Pittsburgh 0	San Jose at Calgary
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS		Chicago at Phoenix
GOLD MEDAL GAME		Los Angeles at Anaheim
Canada 5 Sweden 1	TONIGHT'S GAMES	
BRONZE MEDAL GAME	Minnesota at Boston	
Russia 5 Slovakia 2	Ottawa at Buffalo	
	Philadelphia at Washington	
	New Jersey at Carolina	
	Florida at Toronto	
	Atlanta at Pittsburgh	
	Columbus at Detroit	
	Colorado at Nashville	
NHL		NBA
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS		YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
EDMONTON 3 N.Y. Islanders 2		Milwaukee 107 Toronto 97
		Denver 135 Indiana 115
		New Jersey 98 Sacramento 90
		San Antonio 91 Miami 84
		Utah 119 Golden State 114

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If you go too long between meals, drink half a cup of juice to stabilize blood sugar levels before you eat to back your body up from its "starvation" mode. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Start '09 with a skin deep focus

Meet your New Year's resolutions by addressing your complexion first

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada



Turns out that focusing on better skin nutrition can help meet at least three 2009 resolutions: 1) to spend less, 2) to lose weight, and 3) to get on a less stressful, healthy-living track.

"The skin is a good indicator of what's going on inside," says Dr. Joey Shulman, D.C., registered nutritionist and author of *The Natural Makeover Diet: 4 Steps to Inner Health and Outer Beauty*. "For example, if you eat too many pro-inflammatory foods, such as sugar, refined flour, fried food, alcohol and saturated fats, you'll

wake up looking puffy and red."

Rather than pricey "miracle" products or procedures, the good-skin fix can be as simple and budget friendly as a diet change, which, in addition to improving skin (in as little as a week), could improve the numbers on your bathroom scale.

"Replace the bad stuff with dark leafy greens, broccoli, spinach, winter squash, carrots, sweet potatoes — vitamin

A-rich foods," says Shulman.

Naturopath Dr. Alan Logan, author of *The Clear Skin Diet* and research-and-development co-ordinator for Genuine Health, agrees. "In North America, 50 per cent of consumed vegetables is potato (mostly frozen), onion, iceberg lettuce and processed tomato. We need more colourful fruit and veg, such as blueberries, fresh tomatoes and kale. The deeper the colour

of the produce, the more dense it is in polyphenols, naturally-occurring antioxidants."

Omega-3 fatty acid-rich foods also rank high in the good-skin eating plan because, say Shulman and Logan, they boost skin's natural moisture levels. Shulman recommends cold-water fish, nuts, and seeds, as well as omega-3 fortified eggs and milk. Another hydrating must is water, which gets overlooked in the winter. Shulman suggests green or white tea as alternatives. "They're anti-inflammatory and high in antioxidants, plus white tea can help deal with sugar cravings because it's on

the sweet side."

According to Logan, green tea and fish oil both help reduce levels of cortisol, a hormone the body releases under stress. "Cortisol attacks collagen, the scaffolding of the skin," he says. "Fish is skin's best friend. Orally consumed

Rather than pricey "miracle" products or procedures, the good-skin fix can be as simple and budget friendly as a diet change, including vitamin A and omega-3 fatty acid-rich foods.

fish collagen also provides the body with raw materials to manufacture the collagen skin needs," he adds.

Dr. Michael Davies, a dermatologist at SpaMedica in Toronto, says "a well-balanced diet is best, but supplements can help when we can't get what we need." He recommends, and himself takes, daily doses of 1000mg of vitamin D (available at drugstores). "The fact is that a whole day in the sun without protection won't produce enough natural vitamin D," he says. "Wear sunscreen; take the supplement."



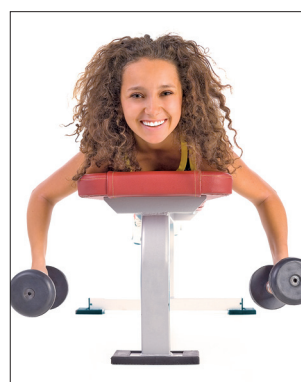
Fitness tips for novices

EXERCISE Fitness Institute owner Steve Roest's tips for novices:

- Schedule exercise as you would a business meeting. Morning is better, because it's easier to get sidetracked as the day goes on.
- Set challenging but realistic goals.
- Start slowly. Set short-term goals to boost your

confidence and stay motivated.

- Expect some soreness, boredom and frustration. Plan how to overcome them.
- Do resistance training about three times a week. Muscle mass raises your metabolism, burning more calories.



Experts recommend resistance training three times a week.

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TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Achieve the body of a dancer

Try easy-to-follow workouts that integrate firming and toning techniques by teachers of jazz, modern dance, yoga and aerobic fitness classes in the new Dance to Fitness DVD by The Method, \$9.99. Buy at Amazon.ca. **METRO**

health & beauty **11**

Science and sex: Unstimulating

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

An announcement just before the holidays that British scientists were developing an implant to stimulate pleasures centres in the brain caused the usual flurry of headlines that every new scientific solution to our seemingly increasingly lousy sex lives seems to cause.

Headlines everywhere announced the discovery of a so-called “super sex chip” that was set to turn us all on at the flip of a switch.

Never mind that the implant is meant for people who suffer from “anhedonia,” a condition I’d never even heard of until now, but that apparently results in an inability to enjoy or experience pleasure from such activities as eating and sex. Or that the currently “intrusive and crude” technology requires surgery to connect a wire from a heart pacemaker into the brain and needs about 10 years worth of development.

Blame Woody Allen for launching our obsession with instant sexual satisfaction. He introduced the “Orgasmatron” in his cheesy 1973 movie Sleeper, a phone-booth-like machine that induced instant or-

gasms in those who entered. Since then, we’ve been on a mission to find a quick fix, effortless solution to our sexual dissatisfaction.

Viagra, of course, has been the star of the show; the magic blue pill that had formerly sexually unsatisfied couples suddenly dancing down the street and singing.

And, when the makers of Viagra didn’t succeed in coming up with a female version, others stepped in and pharmaceutical labs are currently hard at work developing a nasal spray, an injection, and a pill to treat female sexual dysfunction, a condition that didn’t even exist a decade ago.

I sympathize with men and women who experience legitimate sexual problems, in some cases as a result of physical or psychological issues. But the drive to find a magical scientific solution to boost our flaccid sex drives is disturbing.

Whatever happened to good old-fashioned seduction? Bah, who has time for that these days? That requires effort and communication and actually doing some things that reawaken your sexual self. A pill would be so much easier. But the fact is, even if a pill or an implant or a spray can stimulate desire or guarantee an erection or an orgasm, it can’t guarantee good sex.

That requires some good old-fashioned elbow grease. Or at least a good lube.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

New year gear

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Winsor Pilates’ Mari Winsor leads this weight-loss and muscle-toning program that promises to flatten your abs while giving you a total body workout. It comes with a 50-minute DVD and the CorePlus Reformer fitness tool, which is a four-loop design that engages the whole body. Available for \$32.99 at Amazon.ca.



The Double Layer Fitness Tank (seen in lime light) comes with an inside bra liner and racerback. Available for \$44.50 at La Senza Spirit (lasenzaspirit.com).



Anti-bacterial socks, \$8.50. Available at La Senza Spirit (lasenzaspirit.com).



Stretch jersey pants from Smart Set’s activewear collection, Müv, \$32.



Yoga mats designed for enduring performance and reliability. Available in a variety of patterns. This Koi Fish Print is \$29.99. Available at Amazon.ca.



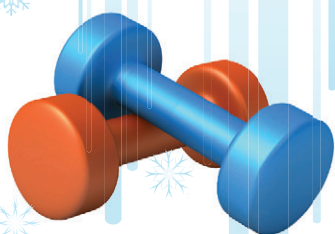
Keep your water cold and fresh while keeping disposable bottles out of our landfills with a lightweight Gaiam aluminum bottle. Available in four designs for \$12.99 each at Amazon.ca.



Breathable side panel purple and black jacket from Smart Set’s activewear collection, Müv, \$38.

Velocity Tailored Back Print Sports Bra, \$24.50, in blue; and Lightly Lined Racerback Sports Bra, \$34.50, in pink. Both available at La Senza Spirit (lasenzaspirit.com).

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Entertainment

Celeb twins

Rebecca Romijn and husband Jerry O'Connell have welcomed twin girls, Howard Stern announced on his Sirius radio show yesterday morning.

USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

DVD picks

Pineapple Express

Director: **David Gordon Green**
Rating: **18A**

IN A PERFECT world, stoner comedies would be enjoyed in a theatre converted into a giant bong. It's too often the case, as it is with Pineapple Express, that the tokers onscreen have a far better time than the sober judges in the seats. This should change with home DVD showings, where what you do in your basement is your own concern. Whatever is in the titular bud that Seth Rogen and James Franco are inhaling their enjoyment of it is almost selfish, since they're getting laughs that we are denied. But you need not worry about being locked into one style of yuks. Apatow is big on hybrid humour, and so apparently is his unlikely di-



rectorial disciple David Gordon Green. Pineapple Express is both a stoner-laugh and a bloody crime satire about duelling drug lords and crooked cops. The body count is large and the violence is quite nasty. Luckily, Franco's sleepy-eyed dealer Saul is one of those sweet discoveries that makes you willing to forgive the film's flaws. Saul dispenses drugs to Rogen's Dale, a process server whose brazen methods are at odds with his conservative demeanour. Things get complicated, and then some, and the movie gets more violent as less funny as it goes along.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Travolta undergoes autopsy

Two pathologists appointed by Bahamian authorities performed an autopsy yesterday on the body of actor John Travolta's 16-year-old son, Jett, who died last week after suffering a seizure at the family's holiday home.

Jett, who had a history of seizures, was found unconscious in a bathroom at the home in the Old Bahama Bay resort on Grand Bahama Island on Friday morning. He was pronounced dead after being taken by ambulance to Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport.

A family doctor sat in on the autopsy at the request of the Travolta family. Results were not released. However, other media outlets have reported Travolta's death certificate says he was killed by a seizure. Obie Wilchcombe, a



Actor John Travolta, second left, poses with daughter Ella Bleu, left, wife Kelly Preston, right, and son Jett in an undated family photo.

member of parliament for western Grand Bahama, said the autopsy was completed at around noon and paperwork was finished two hours later.

Jett's body was moved from Rand Memorial Hos-

pital to Restview Funeral Home in Freeport, where it was being prepared for transport to the United States, Wilchcombe said.

"The preparation of the body will take an estimated 12 to 13 hours," he said.



For the latest on this story, visit metronews.ca/entertainment

Dozens of relatives flew to Grand Bahama to comfort John Travolta and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, Wilchcombe said.

John Travolta and paramedics tried without success to resuscitate the boy.

The family's earlier statement did not refer to Jett's medical history or possible cause of death. But Travolta's lawyers, Michael Ossi and Michael McDermott, were quoted on Sunday as saying Jett apparently suffered from grand mal seizures, which can cause loss of consciousness.

He was on an anti-seizure medication called Depakote for several years, Ossi and McDermott told the celebrity website TMZ. **REUTERS**



what's cooking

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W NETWORK

Hootin' Hugh

Hugh Jackman will voice an owl in a new movie. The star will reportedly voice a character in animated film Guardians Of Ga'Hoole. [FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK](#)



Get set for new time-slot tussles

Soon new battles will wage in primetime: ABC's hit thriller *Lost* against Fox's new crime drama *Lie to Me* on Wednesdays. NBC's comedy favorite *The Office* vs. Fox's reality hit *Hell's Kitchen* on Thursdays. And Fox's sci-fi drama *Dollhouse* competing with CBS' Canadian import *Flashpoint* on Fridays, to name a few.

But in today's time-shifted, multichannel universe, does it still matter if Drama A airs in the same time period as Reality Show B?

Yup, arguably more than ever. Most viewers still watch TV shows live. But more importantly, with the ratings standard for what makes a hit broadcast series dropping, how well a show stacks up against competitors is often considered a fairer measurement of success than whether a show draws a huge audience.

Here are some of the more intriguing new face-offs on the midseason schedule:

Mondays
ABC's *The Bachelor* and *True Beauty* vs. NBC's *Superstars of Dance* and



A scene from ABC's hit thriller *Lost*, which will duke it out against Fox's new crime drama *Lie to Me* on Wednesdays.

Momma's Boys:

Bachelor has ebbed in recent years, while Superstars brings the American Idol producers to NBC. Later in the evening, Beauty — about 10 attractive contestants tricked into believing they're being evaluated for their looks but who are actually being judged by their civility —

will go up against Momma's Boys, which has had a modest December run.

Tuesdays
ABC's *Homeland Security USA* vs. NBC's *Biggest Loser*
Curiosity online about Homeland Security is running high, but Loser is one of the few strong NBC primetime offerings with no signs of weakening.

Wednesdays

ABC's *Lost* vs. Fox's *Lie to Me* vs. CBS' *Criminal Minds*

This three-way standoff pits Fox's keystone new show against CBS' usual time-period winner — both crime procedurals — and then there's ABC's strongly rated *Lost* returning after airing Thursdays during the writers strike last year.

Thursdays, round one
Fox's *Bones* and *Hell's Kitchen* vs. NBC comedies

With rivals airing their strongest shows Thursday night, Fox has been unable to get a consistent foothold on this advertiser-rich evening. Durable reality series *Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?* and *Don't Forget the Lyrics* serve as cannon fodder for hits like ABC's *Grey's Anatomy* and CBS' *Survivor*.

Enter *Bones* and *Hell's Kitchen*, two recent time-period winners Fox is shifting to TV's toughest night. The crime drama has been strong this season on Wednesdays, and the Gordon Ramsay cooking competition series has grown its numbers every year.

Thursdays, round two
CBS' *Harper's Island* vs. NBC's *Kings*

Dueling question marks. CBS' new Agatha Christie-meets-Scream series against NBC's freshman neo-biblical courtesan drama? Normally the fresher idea has the edge, but what's great about these shows is there's nothing like either of them on TV.

Fridays
CBS' *Flashpoint* vs. Fox's *Dollhouse*

Like comparing a Buick to a funnel cake. Here's CBS' modestly rated, yet seemingly nuclear-blast-proof Canadian import competing with Fox's fallen midseason angel. After trying *Moonlight* and *The Ex* List in the same slot, Friday leader CBS hopes *Flashpoint* can finally fill this ratings pothole.

With its other weekday slots occupied by more promising titles, Fox placed the softening sci-fi drama *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* and creatively overhauled freshman series *Dollhouse* onto the Friday wall in hopes they might stick.

REUTERS

ABC brings *Scrubs*' 8th season to life

TELEVISION Here it is, season eight of *Scrubs* — the one that never was supposed to happen. Like *Diff'rent Strokes* more than 20 years ago, the hospital sitcom has defected from NBC to ABC for what is presumed to be its final season. Or maybe not.

The show hits the ground in midseason form after eight months and one change of venue, integrating a new crop of interns with seamless aplomb and again demonstrating how to fuse dramatic elements into a sitcom without breaking a sweat.

It rolls onto ABC with a two-episode premiere assault. First up is an episode featuring the heartless and unethical Dr. Maddox, a new recurring character played by Courteney Cox. She's surrounded by the usual cast of returning *Scrubs* players led by Zach Braff along with Sarah Chalke, Donald Faison, John C. McGinley and Judy Reyes. The second episode guest stars Glynn Turman as a dying patient coming to terms with his mortality.

REUTERS

New hi-def TVs to stream Netflix in U.S.

MOVIES LG Electronics will soon launch new high-definition TVs in the U.S. that can screen Netflix movies directly from the internet without an external box. Last year, the DVD rental company and the electronics giant introduced set-top boxes and Blu-ray DVD players with the same software. Netflix' other partnerships include one with Microsoft's Xbox 360 to embed the movie software in game consoles. **REUTERS**

IntelleVision



GlobalStyle



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critics'corner

Wild Roses

Set in Alberta, this soapy new prime-time drama tells the story of two families feuding over a ranch. David McGregor is the oil executive with his eyes on the property, called Rivercross. He's also got an eye for Maggie Henry, a member of the clan that's called the land home for generations. 9 PM on CBXT



Altered by Elvis

There's more to some Elvis fans than just making a yearly pilgrimage to Graceland. This 2006 documentary from directors Tiffany and Jayce Bartok follows the lives of those who are still feeling the effects of having loved or hated the King — including the guy who styled the deceased Elvis' hair prior to burial. 7 PM on BRAVO

The Biggest Loser

Who can diet best? The answer is determined among the contestants in this unscripted series, which returns tonight for a new season. Each team has a trainer to implement fitness and nutrition regimens and see them through the various challenges. Alison Sweeney hosts. 9 PM on KHQ, CHTV

ED	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/6/09	2	CFRN	239 318	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		Fringe "Power Hungry"		(10:01) Fringe		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	The Biggest Loser One contestant has a health scare.				Law/Ord SVU
	4	CBXT	- 307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Wild Roses "Pilot" (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors		NCIS "Caged" (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Without Trace
	7	CKEM	241 347	Law & Order: SVU		Primetime: What Would		Privileged (HDTV) (N)		Scrubs	Scrubs	Your City
	8	CITV	240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	90210 (HDTV) (N)		NCIS "Caged" (N)		Kitchen Nightmares		News Hour
	11	OMNI	- -	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Virginie (SC)	La Fature (N)	Providence (N) (SC)		Roxy (N) (SC)	Grosse vie (N)	Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	- 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Homeland Security USA		Scrubs	Scrubs	Primetime: You
	16	KAYU	- 373	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Lucky Thirteen"	(10:01) Fringe			News (N)
news	19	CHTV	- -	The Insider (N)	E! News	Ruby (Premiere)		The Biggest Loser One contestant has a health scare.				News (N)
	22	KSPS	- 374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Nova (DVS)		Wild! (DVS)		Frontline (N) (DVS)		Independent
	24	WTVS	- 364	Masters of the Arctic Ice		Frontline (N) (DVS)		My Hero	Summer Wine	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
	15	CBCN	502 -	CBC News: The National		My Big Fat Diet		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Big Fat Diet
	21	TWN	505 398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	27	CNN	500 500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504 508	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	20	TSN	400 400	NHL Hockey		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		In This Corner		Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Rodeo: PRCA
	23	net	408 418	Flames Week	Flames Conn	NHL Hockey San Jose Sharks at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
sports	47	SPEED	417 406	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!
	94	SCORE	410 403	(6) College Football GMAC Bowl		Ball State vs. Tulsa. From Mobile, Ala.			Score Tonight			Hardcore Hockey Talk
	9	EDACC	267 351	Truth, Duty, Valour		Without a Trace		Cold Case		Law & Order		Without Trace
	14	YTV	552 543	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553 546	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby	Babar (N)	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555 545	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	American Dad
	45	FAM	557 541	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	-	TVA	121 714	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Gags	Histoires-filles	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		La Promesse (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575 583	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Wishes		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	25	A&E	615 520	The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters	Manhunters	The Rookies	The Rookies	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
family	26	MMM	571 581	Listed		Celebrity Wrestling		Tommy Lee	Tommy Lee	Party of Five		Celeb Wrestle
	29	FOOD	603 561	The F Word		Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef America		Challenge		The F Word
	31	SHOW	617 522	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Mutant X		Testees	Trailer Park	House
	32	DISC	520 505	Destroyed	Time Warp (N)	Toughest Race: Iditarod		Daily Planet		Destroyed	Time Warp	Race: Iditarod
	33	SLICE	601 562	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Matchmaker	Date My Ex: Jo & Slade		Trading Sp
	34	W	602 567	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Extreme Skinny Celebrities		Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Good Naked
	35	TLC	521 560	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate		Jon & Kate
	36	BRAVO	620 523	Altered by Elvis		Diana Krall: Union Station		Law & Order		Without a Trace		Smash-Up Stry
	38	SPIKE	628 584	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		MANswers	MANswers	CSI: NY (HDTV)		Unsolved Myst.
	40	HIST	522 506	Ax Men		NCIS "Hiatus"		Re-Inventors		Re-Inventors		Worst Jobs
cable variety	41	COM	626 547	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman
	43	SPACE	627 528	The Dresden Files		Destination Truth "Yeti"		Stargate SG-1 "Tok'ra"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Deep Space 9
	44	WPCH	294 650	(6) Executive Decision (1996, Action)			Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Executive Decision *** (1996, Action)		
	46	OLN	411 457	Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
	48	TROP	619 525	What Happen?	What Happen?	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
	50	STAR	621 527	Look-A-Like	Off the Leash	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	etalk	The View (HDTV)		Off the Leash
	52	HGTV	600 564	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes on Homes		Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Pure Design
	65	TLN	700 800	Nati Ieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	George Lopez	The Sopranos "Stage 5" (SS)		David Rocco
	92	APTN	269 350	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay	Rez Rides	Fish Out	Mixed Blessing	Caution: Nuts	Rabbit Fall	Moccasin Flats
	93	VISION	261 394	Quantum Leap (Part 1 of 2)		CBC News: the fifth estate		Polettergeist: The Legacy		Calendar Girl (1993, Romance-Comedy)		
cable variety	100	MTV	581 566	A Double Shot of Love		A Double Shot of Love		MTV Live	After	Next	The City	Double Shot
	101	MM	570 580	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Degrassi: Next		MuchTopTens		Punk'd	Punk'd	Technical Diff.
	102	CPAC	512 396	(6:30) Headline Politics				Question Period		Prime-Politics	Headline Politics	
	103	VIVA	526 507	The West Wing		Encounters		Psychic Inv.	Encounters	Judging Amy		Lost in Austen
	106	RDI	126 730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct		Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)	Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal



Amy Winehouse is becoming a fashion designer, reports London newspaper The Sun. The singer has apparently been bragging that she is already in negotiations with Fred Perry, saying she has already sketched some designs for them. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Winehouse house of fashion?

Celebrity Buzz

Uncle Benji dishes about new niece

PEOPLE Harlow Winter Kate Madden won't be a year old until Jan. 11, but her uncle, Benji Madden, already has a warning for potential suitors, people.com reports.

"I'm going to be keeping a close eye on her," Madden, 29, told People about the daughter of twin brother Joel Madden and his girlfriend Nicole Richie, 27. "I'll leave the shotgun right by the door."

People says the Good Charlotte guitarist is thrilled with the way Harlow's parents have been raising her so far. "When they had her, their instincts just kind of came out, and it's amazing to see," he said. "They just really put their child above everything."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity scares at New Years

SCARE Kate Hudson and Mariah Carey spent New Year's Eve amidst bomb threats, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting. Four homemade bombs were planted around celebrity retreats in Aspen, Colo., according to The New York Post.

Goldie Hawn, Nick Cannon and Jack Nicholson are also said to have been in the area, reports the website, adding a local businessman is suspected of planting the bombs.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

David and Nicole a couple?

RELATIONSHIP Eonline.com is reporting that Nicollette Sheridan and David Spade are a couple, noting the two had dinner together on Saturday in the Palazzo in Las Vegas.

"Although there wasn't major PDA, they definitely were affectionate throughout their meal," a source reportedly told the website.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate pregnant?

BABY Kate Moss is reportedly pregnant, according to femalefirst.co.uk

The supermodel — who has a six-year-old daughter, Lila Grace, with ex-boyfriend Jefferson Hack — fuelled rumours she is expecting a baby after she was seen clutching her stomach while on holiday in

Thai-

land with partner Jamie Hince, the gossip website reports.



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

A source said: "Even though she had a cigarette in her hand, Kate definitely looks as though she's expecting."

"She was walking with Jamie and Lila but kept putting one hand on her stomach — you could clearly see she has a bump there, even though she was wearing a baggy top."

Friends were expecting the 34-year-old British beauty to announce her pregnancy last month when she and Jamie threw a party at her Cotswolds home, the website says.

Prior to the bash, a source close to Kate — who is rumoured to have given up drinking — said: "Kate has been on the phone to all her friends and her assistant has been on the case to her family."

"Kate has had a few big nights out recently but she has been behaving more than usual. Even Simon Cowell said she had a bit of a tummy when she went to watch his show The X Factor."

However, the bash passed with no major announcement, the website reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Pete fights paranoia

PEOPLE Pete Wentz is always paranoid, according to femalefirst.co.uk. The Fall Out Boy rocker struggles to control his anxiety and says medication no longer helps his problem, the website reports, adding the he admitted: "I'm paranoid pretty much all the time. I can take three Xanax and not feel a thing."

Pete — whose wife Ashlee Simpson gave birth to their first child, son Bronx Mowgli, in November — also revealed he has stopped reading about himself online because the barrage of criticism gets him down.

He added to Blender

magazine: "I was letting the blogs get to me. It's semi-frustrating when your name actually becomes a synonym for douche bag."

Pete's decision to avoid blogs may help with his new year's resolution, the website says, adding the 29-year-old musician has vowed to control his language around his family.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



ScarJo eager to age as actress

CAREER Scarlett Johansson enjoys working with Woody Allen because he doesn't care about her age, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 24-year-old star — who has collaborated with the director on three movies, Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Scoop and Match Point — is looking forward to getting older because she believes she will get offered more interesting parts, but says working with Woody has already given her experiences she didn't expect to have at her age.

She explained: "I hope to work with him

again. I would do his craft service, really. I feel like we work very well together, because we're very comfortable with each other. Because we're friends, and we challenge each other."

"I'm in a strange kind of age group. But I'm looking very much forward to growing older in this industry, probably contrary to popular belief."

"I feel like there's a lot of opportunity for women that are a bit older than me."

"A lot of the actors that I really admire are probably ten or 15 years older than me, and just have wonderful opportunities."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Gwyneth on new year's detox plan

HEALTH Gwyneth Paltrow has embarked upon a post-Christmas detox, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress is taking drastic measures to shift the excess pounds she gained over the festive period.

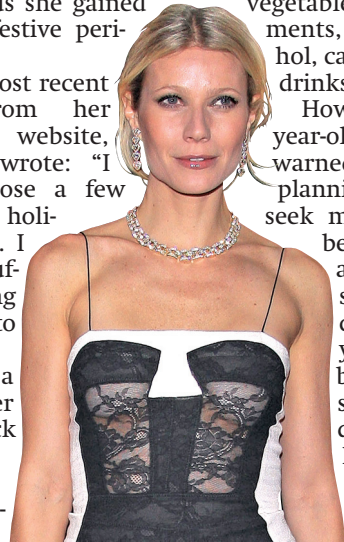
In the most recent e-mail from her goop.com website, Gwyneth wrote: "I need to lose a few pounds of holiday excess. I will be suffering along with you to kickstart my year a bit lighter — good luck to us all!"

According to re-

ports, banned substances in Gwyneth's post-holiday diet include: Dairy, gluten, meat, shellfish, all processed food, fatty nuts, potatoes and other related vegetables, condiments, sugar, alcohol, caffeine or fizzy drinks.

However, the 36-year-old actress has warned anyone planning to detox to seek medical advice before starting, adding, "Make sure you check with your doctor before you start any detox. Drink a lot of water."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Tara 'doing well': Source

PEOPLE Tara Reid checked into rehab last month and is getting her life back together with the help of her family, a source tells people.com

"She's doing well. The whole family is very positive about this being the new beginning for her," says the source, who is close to the family.

Reid decided to check herself in to Promises Treatment Centre, and though she's been in

treatment less than a month, her family and friends are optimistic about her future, People reports. "They are taking steps to do everything they can to help Tara keep on the right track," adds the source, who says Reid is expected to check out of the centre shortly. When she entered rehab her rep would not reveal what Reid was being treated for.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Say no to drive-thru Vegas weddings, Carmen says

ADVICE After a couple of failed marriages under her belt, Carmen Electra feels comfortable dishing out a smart suggestion, people.com reports.

"My advice to anyone is to not get married in Vegas," she told People. "Do not get married at the drive-thru in Vegas, especially. Take your time — enjoy it!"

Electra, 36, adds: "It's important to think out marriage in general because

it's a huge commitment. Besides that, I hate to say it, but it's a lot of paperwork and a lot of emotions. It can be difficult."

Electra married former NBA All-Star Dennis Rodman in 1998 and filed for an annulment just nine days later. Now Electra, who also was once hitched to rocker Dave Navarro, is engaged to former Korn guitarist Rob Patterson, 38. But they have no plans to marry any time soon.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





Today

Morning clouds.
-10 C / -16 C



Wednesday

Scattered flurries.
-16 C / -19 C



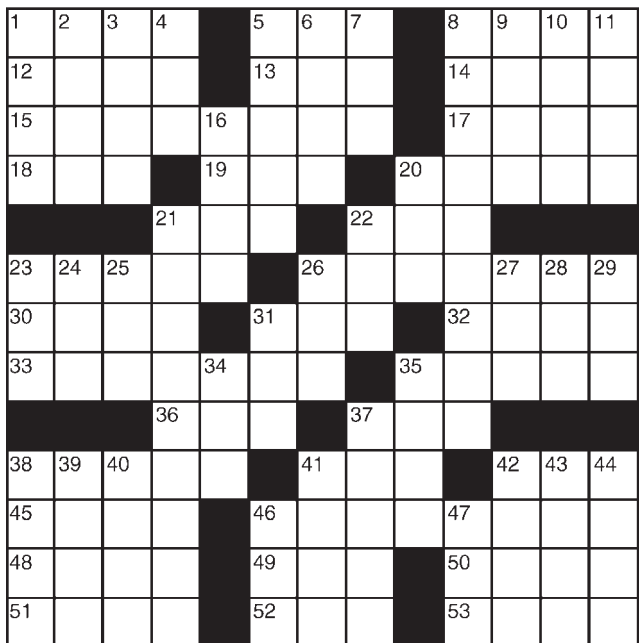
Thursday

Early flurries.
-12 C / -22 C



Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television
“My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it’s always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.” **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five



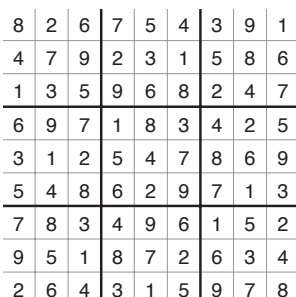
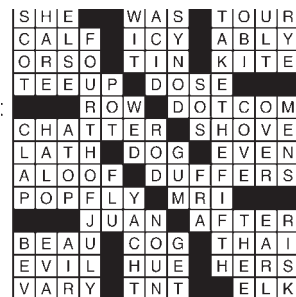
Crossword across

- 1 Candle cirler
- 5 Hot tub
- 8 Sunbeams
- 12 Land measure
- 13 It may be faux
- 14 Curved molding
- 15 St. Patrick’s Day symbol
- 17 Just adorable
- 18 Plaything
- 19 Anger
- 20 Wool quantity
- 21 Barracks bed
- 22 Victory
- 23 Trivial
- 26 Takes for a time
- 30 State
- 31 Tibetan critter
- 32 Reed instrument
- 33 Inhabitant
- 35 Michigan city
- 36 2004 horror movie
- 37 Zero
- 38 Pointed
- 41 Tuna container
- 42 “Indubitably”
- 45 — contendere
- 46 Saturday Evening Post cover artist
- 48 Oil-cartel acronym
- 49 Ford or Lincoln
- 50 Additionally
- 51 It lasts for days
- 52 Hearty brew
- 53 Merriment

Crossword down

- 1 Sail support
- 2 Siete + uno
- 3 Salver
- 4 Height of fashion?
- 5 Recreational activity
- 6 Wear a rut in the rug
- 7 Request
- 8 Elvis’ genre
- 9 Malaria symptom
- 10 Bigfoot’s cousin
- 11 No longer hidden
- 16 Urban disturbance
- 20 Knight’s address
- 21 Voice of Marty the Zebra in Madagascar
- 22 Moo goo gai pan pan
- 23 Young fellow
- 24 “— Got a Secret”
- 25 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 26 Proscribe
- 27 Sapporo sash
- 28 Money of North Korea
- 29 Collection
- 31 Evergreen variety
- 34 Use a ray gun
- 35 Stoolie
- 37 Mother-of-pearl
- 38 Frosty’s makeup
- 39 Crosby crony
- 40 Sheltered
- 41 Brat’s stocking stuffer
- 42 Holler
- 43 Differently
- 44 — gin fizz
- 46 Nipper’s co.
- 47 Move back and forth

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



Find today’s answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart	
Under 13 min	Genius	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	Scholar	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Vegetable Primavera

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 lb (230 g) baby carrots
- 5 1/2 oz (155 g) baby corn cobs
- 1/2 lb (230 g) young fine green beans
- Salt and black pepper
- 1/2 lb (230 g) baby or small zucchinis
- A small handful of fresh parsley
- 14 oz (400 g) fresh ricotta and spinach tortellini
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1/2 lemon
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) wholegrain mustard

METHOD:

- Put a large saucepan of water and a kettle on to boil. Preheat oven to low.
- Rinse and trim carrots, corn and beans, and cut into short lengths. Plunge vegetables into saucepan of boiling water, add salt, bring back to boil, then simmer for 4–5 minutes, until slightly crisp.
- Meanwhile, rinse and trim zucchinis. Cut baby zucchinis in half lengthwise, small ones into

- slices, and set aside. Rinse, dry and chop parsley.
- Lift cooked vegetables from boiling water with a slotted spoon, put into bowl and keep warm in the oven. Bring water back to boil, topping up with more from kettle if necessary. Add pasta and boil gently for 5–6 minutes.
 - Meanwhile, heat olive oil in large saucepan, add zucchinis and fry, stirring continuously, for 2–3 minutes.
 - Squeeze lemon juice into zucchinis, then add drained vegetables, mustard and salt and pepper to taste. Toss gently.
 - Drain pasta and mix into vegetables. Turn onto warmed serving dish, sprinkle parsley and serve hot.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A boss is defeated by a fanatical person. Be more than eager to praise others. Make a fresh start with an unfortunate opponent.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Gloomy thoughts will melt away. A woman lets you in on a secret. A tardy guy will stand his ground.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Your delicate hopes for love will thrive. Don't thoughtlessly shut out someone who cares. Break down obstacles with your exceptional ideas.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
There will be a pep talk about love. A whiner demands more freedom. A miserable guy needs to find a job.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't rely on anyone who lacks good timing. Time will heal all, after a promise is broken. You'll endure overwhelming emotions.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You'll find sanctuary from a radical situation. See the wonderful opportunities all around. Now is the time to make a serious move.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll want to talk about hope. A lover's moodiness creates a crisis. Your tactfulness is necessary with a self-indulgent woman.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Somebody's disdainful words will cause incredulity. Guide yourself away from unhealthy diet plans. Don't postpone a medical check-up.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You'll have a conversation with a laughing man. Special treatment will make you happy. Pay heed to a coward's request.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A cherished wish finally comes true. Anything is possible if your mind is alert. A woman's chattiness will cause revelations.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Watch out for crooks. Don't be humble when you get the right idea. Respect will be given when you stand firm.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Something very special will happen. Prepare for a reaction to your procrastination. Passing the buck will lead to despair.



This day in history

- JAN. 6, 1929 — Mother Teresa arrives in Calcutta to begin her work amongst India's poor and diseased people.
- JAN. 6, 1942 — Pan American Airlines becomes the first commercial airline to schedule a flight around the world.
- JAN. 6, 1974 — In response to the 1973 energy crisis, daylight saving time commences nearly four months early in the United States.
- JAN. 6, 1980 — The beginning of the first GPS epoch.
- JAN. 6, 2005 — Edgar Ray Killen is arrested as a suspect for the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

- Is able to extend across, as a bridge (1)
- Touch Achilles' vulnerable foot part (1)
- Concealed a tentacled sea creature (1)
- Which gash? (1)
- Composer Gustav's U.S. currency (2)
- Fair-haired woman's wizard sticks (1)
- Great frightener of one who proves a claim (4)

ANSWERS
1. CAN SPAN 2. FEEL HEEL 3. HID SQUID 4. WHAT CUT
5. MAHLERS DOLLARS 6. BLONDES VANDS 7. VERIFIER TERPRIER
1-6-09

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